Are You a Profitable Servant?

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV)

The above passage makes it plain that there are many who think they have a relationship with Christ and are 'saved' but they really aren't. Once God showed me the truth about eternal security it seemed so obvious that I found it difficult to believe I ever saw things differently. It is without a doubt the greatest lie Satan has ever perpetrated against those who confess Christ with their lips but never really knew Him.

This is a direct result of what Jude warned us would happen in these last days. Wicked men have crept into the churches unawares and taken them over. They are hirelings, in it for the money. They spread the doctrines of devils with huge grins on their faces. Even so, ultimately we have no one to blame for our lack of a personal relationship with Christ but ourselves.

One concept that is used to confuse Christians is that of works not earning our salvation. While this statement in and of itself is true, it is used to support the preposterous claim that because we cannot earn our salvation through works therefore no works are required of us. This is something I have tried to explain a hundred different times in a hundred different ways, but I pray this time it takes root in the souls of some of those deceived by it. Let's look at some more scripture.

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
James 2:21-26 (KJV)

Let me give you an allegory.I don't know about others, but I love my parents. As a part of this love I enjoy doing things to please them. I don't do these things in order to earn their love, but because we already love each other. Now if someone asked a friend of mine how I treat my parents they could not peer into my heart like God can and see my intentions, they could only go by my actions.

(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)
Romans 2:13-15 (KJV)

Similarly, people who truly love God do things to please Him naturally, namely eschew sin. We have undergone a profound transformation; an ever growing relationship where we no longer take pleasure in the things of this world. Whilst we still sin on occasion we no longer derive the same pleasure from it. Again, using my parents as an allegory just a look of disappointment from them cut me deeply. The same is with our Heavenly Father.

But in these perilous times we have a whole class of 'Christian' who have deluded themselves into believing that trying to please our God somehow equates to trying to 'earn our salvation'. They are not even aware of the stench of their sins before God. Somewhere along the line someone told them that their sin doesn't stink anymore.

As a Christian with the law written in my heart I love God and every day am thankful for my salvation and the sacrifice of His precious Son on the cross. I am filled with shame when I transgress His law and repent whenever I do so. I get pleasure from witnessing to people and warning those who have gone astray.

Doing things that please God is not trying to earn salvation! I have had some tell me that if we have to repent when we sin that means if we have forgotten to confess even a single one we could go to Hell. I'm sorry but that isn't how God works. It is one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin; will God forget to remind us? Any sins that needs confessing will be brought to our minds by the Holy Spirit. Our job is to repent of them.

> **There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**
> **Romans 8:1 (KJV)**

So where does salvation end and condemnation once again take root? The Holy Spirit will convict us of sin, however the danger of losing our salvation lies in failing to heed that warning. Loss of salvation takes place when we sin and no longer care, our conscience seared as with a hot iron. As we can see in Paul's words above our salvation is not eternal, but conditional upon us not walking in the flesh anymore. Yet many have had a false salvation experience, a sure sign of which is that they never stopped walking after the flesh. We can take the above verse and plainly surmise that those who walk after the flesh are not in Christ (saved).

> **After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.**
> **Matthew 25:19-20 (KJV)**

Once again I use the parable of the talents to illustrate this concept simply because it fits so well. I see these 'talents' that God has given me and I get excited. Why? Because first I have been given an opportunity to demonstrate my love for God. Second, the bible is full of promises to me that my diligence in doing so will be well rewarded. The difference in attitude between those who were entrusted with multiple talents and the unprofitable servant is remarkable.

> **Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**
> **Matthew 25:24-30 (KJV)**

But what of the unprofitable servant? Despite a lifetime of watching his fellow servants using their talents to great gain this man who was entrusted with so little to begin with was yet filled with fear at the prospect of God telling him to ‘show me the money’. Fear is the exact opposite of faith. The unprofitable servant did not do what Christ called the 'first works' in His letter to the church at Ephesus (**Revelation 2:5 KJV**).

> **But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
> **Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)**

Those who are truly God's people will diligently seek Him. If you haven't done so it is not too late to repent and turn your life around. Do not go to a church, pastor or ministry for your answers, get on your knees and go directly to Christ, the only intercessor between God and man. Read you bible often and ask God to open up your understanding. Seek and ye shall find.